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Vancek attains double Gold status; passes Gold Freeskate

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Records, as the saying goes, are meant to be broken.

So it was only fitting that Linda Coe's 30-year ride as the lone Acton Figure Skating Club double Gold skater be erased from the record books by a promising 10-year member.

Stasha Vancek, 16, recently passed her Gold Freeskate Test at Milton's Tonelli Arena. Coupled with her Gold Dance passing in October 1991, the Acton resident is now the only active AFSC member with double Gold status. Acton's Coe achieved the feat in 1964.

"For a little club we have a lot of Gold recipients," said Vancek's coach Cindy Currie, who named about seven other skaters in an interview last Wednesday.

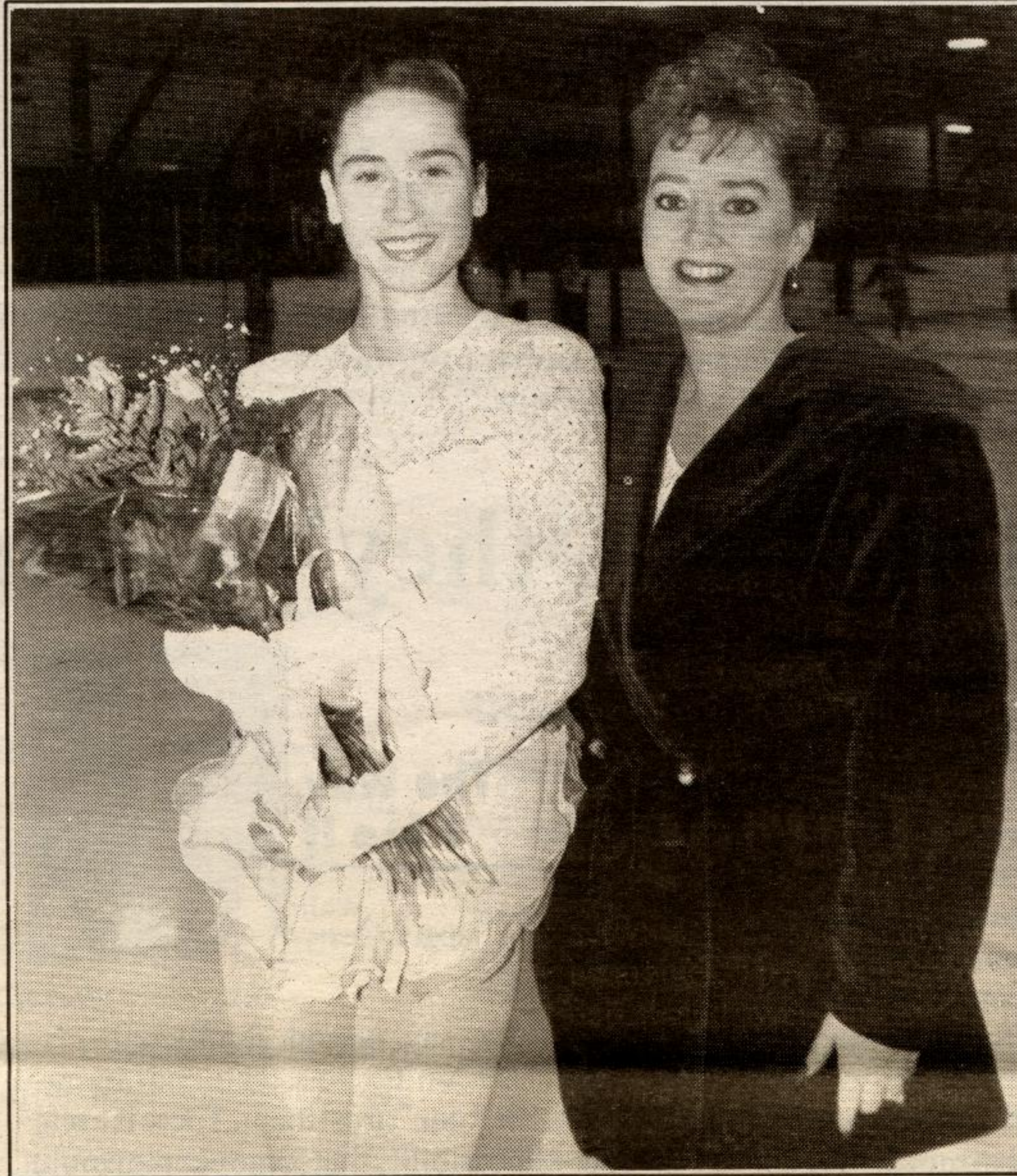
Vancek's 60-minute test was comprised of two parts: elements (double jumps, spin combos, field movements, etc.) and a three-and-a-half to four minute artistic-technical skate.

"I'm proud that I've done it and happy it's done. Dancing came naturally, but the Freeskate was more challenging. To win both feels the same," said Vancek, who added revolutions and had to coordinate footwork for her latest accomplishment.

In her 10 years with the local club, Vancek has experienced the highs and lows of competition, but knows her dedication has made it all pay off.

"I can just go out and do what I have to do," the Grade 11 Acton High student said of her Gold Test experiences. "I think that comes with maturity. I don't think 'oh my God, test day.'"

That, along with sound advice from her lifetime coach, erases the



GOLD SMILES: Stasha Vancek, left, poses with lifetime coach Cindy Currie after passing her Gold Freeskate Test. She passed her Gold Dance in 1991. (Doug Harrison photo)

pressure of performing in front of three judges.

"I tell her to have fun and make the audience enjoy watching you," Currie explained. "Pretend you're the guest skater and you've been asked to put on a show."

She has, since her first days at the club at age six. That's when she decided it was time to do what her best friend was doing.

"She (Stasha) used to get upset after competitions if she won and her friends had failed. It took the joy out of her accomplishment," remembered AFSC president and Vancek's mother, Winnie.

But that's how close AFSC members are, Currie added. She says the skaters periodically spend more time with each other than their families.

Vancek hits the Community Centre ice 10 hours a week, along with juggling homework and a part-time job.

She now has two figures plus a part of one other before she gains Gold status in the figure tests.

"Figures are tedious and take a lot of discipline and dedication," says Vancek, who has set a year-and-a-half target for her next Gold skate.

Sabres head to OMHA semi-final

The Acton Nellis Construction Sabres completed the second step in their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) championship quest by eliminating Fergus in three straight games.

Acton showed Fergus no respect, outscoring them 18-4 with wins of 4-2, 9-2 and 5-0 and have advanced to semi-final play.

The sweep was completed last Wednesday when John Field hit for two goals in the 5-0 shutout. Andrew Pembleton, Mike Dube and Shawn Prentice had singles.

Assists went to Pembleton with three, Prentice and Sean Kirk with a pair, Steve Atkinson and Max Schaefer. The latter also recorded the-geese egg.

Last Monday, Dube posted the hat-trick and Field a pair of goals in the 9-2 rout in Fergus.

Single markers went to Kirk, Pembleton, Prentice and Nick Mastro.

Prentice, Dube, Pembleton and Field scored in the first game.

Prentice, Pembleton and Adam Brouillard netted helpers.

Acton's final-four opponent appears to be Six Nations, who is currently leading Port Dover 2-0 in the best-of-five series.

Meanwhile, in recent tournament play, the Sabres brought home a consolation trophy from Bracebridge.

The locals won two of their three games. They narrowly lost

their third game, a 3-2 defeat in a shootout against Huntsville.

The Sabres downed Parry Sound 3-1 in the consolation final.

Prentice, Field and Kirk all found the net, while Brouillard, Pembleton and Field were credited with assists.

The Sabres fell 2-1 in the shootout portion of their 3-2 loss. Atkinson scored both Sabre goals for separate leads only to see Huntsville tie the game in the third period with 28 seconds left.

On the strength of Pembleton's goal, the Sabres trimmed Thorold 1-0 in their first game.

Mike McDonald had an assist, while Schaefer was outstanding in recording the shut out.

AHS Girls' v-ball team exits playoffs

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

An old nemesis came back to haunt the Acton Redmen Junior Girls' volleyball unit in high school quarter-final play on Monday, wresting away their hopes of a dream season.

The locals missed at least six serves in the second game of their playoff match at Georgetown High, succumbing 15-2 after forcing the Rebels to score 16 points in a 16-14 squeaker in Game 1.

The Redmen, coming off a preliminary round playoff win (15-9 and 15-11) against Milton last Wednesday, were outdone by inconsistent serving and a relentless Rebel defence.

The visitors had to play catch-up from the outset as they fell behind 13-6 before reeling off seven points to even one of the most entertaining games of the year. The Redmen took the lead at 14-13, but couldn't service the ball in key situations.

"We had good runs, but we couldn't put the ball away," said Redmen coach Bob McKay Monday night. "We battled hard and the girls couldn't have given

any more of an effort. We had Georgetown scared again. We would have been OK if we had won that game."

McKay feels a loss in the final regular season game to Aldershot played a part in his team's early playoff exit.

"If we could have won that game," McKay offers, "we could have avoided playing Georgetown this early. It's funny when you look back on it."

"But our season is done with no regrets at all. We established that Acton has a viable volleyball program and we more than established our team goals."

Put simply, the Redmen were eliminated by a more powerful and talented team.

"We were outdefenced by a better team. They played incredible and my hat's off to them," praised the affable McKay. "I think they only missed one or two serves on the day and that's a credit to their coaches, Fred Kotani and Shirley White."

McKay said he will have seven of his nine players graduate with him next year when he heads the Redmen Senior volleyball program.

Snyder in GHAC, Scappin injures left rotator cuff

BY DOUG HARRISON
The Acton Tanner

Wrestler Scott Snyder had no idea he'd be heading to the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Championship (GHAC) prior to the Halton Senior championship last Wednesday.

Carlos Scappin thought he would be, but now can't.

The two rookie Acton High wrestlers who compete on the Georgetown High squad sat at different ends of the scale after last week's meet at E.C. Drury.

Snyder gained a 16-8 pin to finish fourth and advances to GHAC at E.C. Drury today (Wednesday), while Scappin suffered torn muscles to his left rotator cuff in his first match.

He will be sidelined from three to four weeks and might miss the Canadian championships at the end of March in Edmonton.

"I ran into some tough competition. My E.C. opponent was the toughest. He demolished me," says Snyder, who posted a 3-2 record on the day in the 127-pound class.

The 16-year-old took fourth after pinning Rebel teammate Mike Dryke. Dryke gained the upper hand early in the match, but Snyder took control in the late going of the

bout. He became more aggressive, taking advantage of a winded Dryke and got the three-count.

The 5-foot-8, 184-pound Scappin was caught off-guard against his E.C. Drury opponent.

"We were just getting into the match, he went to throw me and I didn't know what he was doing. I didn't know how to defend the move," admitted Scappin, who was confident of a top-three placing.

"The first time he dropped me to the floor I landed on my head and shoulder. The second time my shoulder went a funny way and I couldn't feel anything. I didn't even hear a pop."

While Scappin says the arm is "getting better and stronger," he knows his chances for a Canadian championship appearance are slim. "Even rugby season is," said the downcast 15-year-old.

"My teammates came up to me later and said the referee should have stopped the fight because the damaging throw wasn't a good move. But he didn't. Oh well," shrugs the Grade 10 student. "It didn't look all that dangerous."

Scappin has a follow-up appointment with his doctor tomorrow (Thursday).